

(b) the reasons for delay in starting this project;

(c) the amount to be invested on this project; and

(d) by when commercial production is likely to be started under the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) Government of India awarded five CBM blocks to ONGC under 3 rounds of CBM bidding. The reasons for slow progress is mainly because of the delays in land acquisition of drill sites and for approach roads etc, and also non-availability of suitable drilling rigs for CBM. ONGC was to drill 43 core holes and 63 exploratory and pilot wells with an estimated expenditure of US\$ 72.3 Million. However, ONGC had drilled 25 core holes and 4 exploratory wells with an investment of US\$ 11.5 Million so far.

(d) Commercial CBM production will depend on the quantity of CBM available in these blocks and the implementation of development plan.

Exploration of hydrocarbon deposit by ONGC

2985. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation had explored a hydrocarbon deposit at Turputallu in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the estimated quantity and quality of hydrocarbon found in Turputallu;

(c) by when the Commercial production is likely to be commenced from the above said reserve; and

(d) the estimated cost involved in tapping the potential of this reserve?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Exploratory efforts of ONGC have led to the discovery of "Turputallu" gas find, in Krishna Godavari onland basin, in the State of Andhra Pradesh. As on 01.04.2006, the estimated in-place gas of Turputallu find is 72.1 million cubic meters having Ultimate reserves of 7.3 million cubic meters. Since Gas production has not yet commenced, quality of gas at this stage has not been ascertained.

(c) and (d) The exploratory well shall be put on commercial production in the first part of year 2007-08. The estimated cost of the line connecting this well to the GAIL grid is approximately Rs. 92 lakhs.

Production of Oil and Gas

†2986. SHRI MAHENDRA SAHNI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production of crude oil and natural gas in the country has not taken place in accordance with the target during the last ten years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) During Ninth Five Year Plan period (1997-2002), crude oil and natural gas production targets were 180.824 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) and 144.522 billion Cubic Metre (BCM) respectively, against which production achievements were 162.936 MMT for crude oil and 141.460 BCM for natural gas.

During Tenth Five Year Plan period (2002-07), crude oil and natural gas production targets are 169.386 MMT and 177.480 BCM respectively, against which expected production is likely to be 167.787 MMT for crude oil and 158.385 BCM for natural gas.

Major oil and gas producing fields of the country are at a stage of natural decline. During Tenth Five Year Plan period, this decline in oil and gas production was partially offset by implementing Improved Oil Recovery/enhanced Oil Recovery techniques. As a result, crude oil and natural gas production is higher during Tenth Five Year Plan period as compared to oil and gas production in Ninth Five Year Plan.

Reduction in output by OPEC

2987. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether to maintain the price at \$60 per barrel, OPEC is likely to

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.